



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

KELLY

16 EDISON DRIVE

AUGUSTA, MAINE

ANGUS S. KING, JR.

GOVERNOR

04330

MICHAEL F.

COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW

DIRECTOR

Board of EMS Meeting
Maine EMS Conference Room
August 4, 1999
MINUTES

Members Present: Jim McKenney (Chair), Leo Bouchard (Chair-elect), Charles Little, Richard Doughty, William Dunwoody, Steve Leach, John Defillip, Steve Hayes, Peter DiPietrantonio, Penelope Stevens, Wayne Werts, Oden Cassidy

Regional Coordinators: Jim Caron, Donnie Carroll, Joanne LeBrun

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Drexell White, Bill Montejo

Guest: Chip Getchell (EMT-I, China Rescue/Windsor Ambulance)

1. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves, Mr. Getchell was welcomed to the meeting.

2. Minutes - June 2, 1999 Meeting

It was noted that a copy of the Fair Hearing Officer's report which included the recording of the Board's motions and votes was not included with the packets. Jay said that copies will be made, distributed to members, and attached to the copy of record.

MOTION: To accept the minutes as presented with the addition of the Fair Hearing Officer's report (Bouchard; second by Doughty). Carried.

3. Old Business

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A. Investigations Task Force - Report

W. Werts reported that the Task Force held an abbreviated meeting this morning and is working on developing a survey that would be sent to those who were subject to the investigative process. The purpose of the survey is to try and identify areas for improvement and streamlining. There will not be a Task Force meeting in September.

B. Unfinished Business

None at this time.

C. Other

None at this time.

4. New Business

A. Ops Team/Committee Action Items

Jay reported that the Ops Team met August 3 and spent considerable time reviewing the first part of proposed Rule changes. The Ops Team will be holding a joint meeting with the Education Committee on Wednesday, September 8. There were no items from the Ops Team that require Board action at this time.

B. Disciplinary Action Update

On June 15, 1999, a hearing was held in Administrative Court appealing the Board's decision regarding Brian Eliot. The Board's recommendation had been for Mr. Eliot's license to be revoked for one year; however, the Administrative Court reduced this time to one month.

MEMS has not received the Commissioner's decision in the John Sawicki case, although it is anticipated in the immediate future. Jay said that as soon as it is received, copies will be distributed to the Board.

Jay also noted that in both of these cases, the absence of having codified sentencing guidelines has created questions regarding how the Board determines penalties and action against licensees. He encouraged the Board to seriously consider developing these guidelines recognizing that there will always be mitigating factors which affect the ultimate decision. He said the

office now has a summary of action taken over the past 10 years.

Steve Hayes said that such a summary should include both the substantive and the mitigating factors of each case.

Consensus was that this is a project worthy of further activity. Jay was asked to survey other state EMS offices and gather information about what other states may be doing in this area.

C. Investigations Committee Action Items
None at this time.

D. Waiver Request - Alan Plourde
Jay summarized the Executive Summary of the waiver request from Mr. Plourde. After discussion about the Rules and Mr. Plourde's licensing history, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To deny the waiver request of Alan Plourde (Bouchard; second by Dunwoody). Unanimous.

E. Rules Revisions
Jay began by describing the Rules revision process and the work that has been done to prepare the draft presented to the Board. The draft prepared for discussion was developed following conversations among the MEMS staff and took into consideration comments/suggestions received since the last Rules revision. The tentative plan is to have the Board consider the first part in August, then in September complete the remaining sections and the Appendices. Following the September meeting, copies of that draft would be sent to EMS service chiefs, regional offices, and other interested parties for review and comment. Comments received would be presented to the Board in October for consideration. At the conclusion of the October meeting, the goal is to have an updated version that would again be distributed as described above and used for public hearing beginning in November.

Jay said that although this is an ambitious timeline, it is one that will enable the Board to

capitalize on the opportunity to have a hearing at the MCEMS Samoset Conference, which historically has produced a large response.

Drexell then led the Board through the review of Sections 1-7 of the Rules and recorded comments and changes approved by consensus. Prior to the September meeting, members will receive an updated draft for review.

F. Board Positions/Terms

Jay referred to the listing of Board members that was included in the packet. In particular, there are several whose term expires in October 1999. Those interested in reappointment need to submit a letter of interest and an updated resume to the Governor's office. Members are asked to also send a copy to MEMS in order to have a record on file.

G. Other

None at this time.

5. Staff Report

Activities - Report

Jay reported that Kerry Pomelow, EMT-P, (Redington-Fairview EMS) has taken over the editorial responsibility for the Journal of Maine EMS. Kerry has been working with Cynthia Thompson for several months. Jay also mentioned the difficulties that have been experienced in trying to produce a bi-monthly publication. Considerations include: the paucity of quality articles, demands upon staff time, and financial requirements to subsidize the costs of publication.

Following discussion, it was agreed to publish the Journal on a quarterly basis and at the same time, work to identify other sources for articles and support.

Jay also reported that the results of the Data RFP were that the only proposal received was from the MHIC, which has been providing this service for the past 20 years. However, the cost of the contract is approximately \$50,000 over

budget, thus Jay is working to find additional funding and reviewing the contract for possible cost savings.

This unexpected cost, in addition to the last minute cut in the PHHS Block Grant, and the anticipated expenses for attorney representation (~\$12,500) is presenting a number of challenges. Jay said that he would be looking at the budget carefully and may request emergency funding from the Legislature during their second regular session.

Jay further reported that MEMS had applied for third year funding under the EMS-C project and has applied for funding to hire a part-time statewide Trauma Coordinator. The goal is to have a person available to work with hospitals gathering and providing computerized Trauma Registry data, and to coordinate gather statewide data and producing reports from same. A decision should be known in late September.

MEMS has also received funding from the Rural Health Project to provide data entry for the Trauma Registry reports that have been received on paper forms. This funding will also provide additional training for hospitals using the Trauma Registry computer program, *Trauma!*

B. MDPB Report

None. The MDPB is not meeting in July or August. Next scheduled meeting is September 15.

C. Other

Jay reported that long time EMT and EMS administrator, Donald Hampton (Lubec) passed away on July 18. For many years Don was very active with the Northeast EMS Council and with EMS in Washington County. His passing will be mentioned in the next issue of the Journal of Maine EMS.

6. Other

Jim McKenney said that there will be a meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee in September following the Board meeting. Topics will include the annual evaluation for the EMS

Director and continuing the discussion about regional funding.

In consideration of the amount of time likely to be required for the Rules revisions, the meeting on September 1, 1999, will begin at 9:00 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM.